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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SHARING
SECRETS

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Compiled by Laura Bauer & Debra Bushweit Galliani

We had an overwhelming response to our December/January question, “**In your experience, what plants attract hummingbirds?**” By combining some of these plants, your Southern California garden can provide nature’s nectar for hummers all year long.

Two plants immediately come to mind as I can watch both through my kitchen windows: *Arbutus* 'Marina'. Hummingbirds like this tree for feeding, nesting and just sitting. *Russelia equisetiformis* (Firecracker Plant). Both the bright coral and pale coral pink forms are constantly visited for feeding. - BC

The hummingbirds that come to my garden are Anna's and Allen's. Their favorite plants by far are *Lochroma cyaneum* and *Cestrum elegans*. They also enjoy cupheas and fuchsias. - CR

Zauschneria/Epilobium (California Fuchsia). They love it! - LB

Hamelia patens (Fire Bush). Mine is now a multitrunked tree 16' tall. Hummingbirds nest in it and fight territorial battles over it. Blooms year 'round. - JS

All of the cupheas seem to attract hummingbirds, especially *Cuphea oreophylla*. *Pentas lanceolata* not only attracts hummingbirds but also butterflies. - DK

Tecoma capensis (Cape Honeysuckle). - DL

Strelitzia (Bird of Paradise); *Epilobium*, formerly *Zauschneria* (California Fuchsia); *Mimulus* (Monkey Flowers); and many Penstemons. - PM

Any *Iochroma*; *Salvia*, especially *S. 'Waverly'*"; and *Cuphea*, especially *C. 'Big Cigar'*. - SG

I can sit at my desk for hours and watch the hummers play around the orange *Epidendrum* blossoms on my balcony.
- JL

Russelia; *Epilobium*; *Fuchsia*; and *Lonicera* (Honeysuckle). - JJ

Iochroma. - CP

I haven't seen an *Echium* that a hummingbird didn't like. They also like *Streptosolen jamesonii* (Marmalade Bush); *Columnnea*; Gesneriads; *Eremophila*; *Aloe*; *Justicia*; *Clarkia*; *Lobelia*; *Lantana*; *Gelsemium sempervirens* (Carolina Jessamine); *Polygala x dalmaisiana* (Sweet-pea Shrub); *Bougainvillea*; *Calandrinia*; *Schlumbergera*; *Impatiens*; and *Alstroemeria*. - DBG

Puyas. They all attract hummers. - LW

Salvia clevelandii (Cleveland Sage); *Lavandula* (Lavender); *Leonotis leonurus* (Lion's Tail); Salvias - many varieties; *Feijoa* (Pineapple Guava); Red Pentas; *Callistemon* (Bottle Brush); Cannas (red); *Lavatera bicolor* (*L. maritima*); *Distictis buccinatoria* (Red Trumpet Vine) and lots more! - DC

Anonymous Contributors

Trichostema lanatum (Woolly Blue Curls).

City Flower of Los Angeles: *Strelitzia reginae*.

Native gardens: *Salvia spathacea*, *Ribes*.

Blue Cestrum.

Malvaviscus, *Epilobium*, *Galvezia juncea*, *Dudleya anthonyi*.